GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:694
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
AUCTION OF MEDALS BY SPORTSPERSONS
Barq Shri Shafiqur Rahman

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sportspersons (wrestlers) were compelled to auction their medals as reported in the Hindi daily `The Hindustan` dated 01 September,2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS(DR. M. S. GILL)

(a) to (c): The question of providing better facilities to sportspersons, both in terms of equipment and other facilities, has been constantly engaging the attention of the Government. Under its various schemes, the Government of India provides financial assistance to individual sportspersons in the form of cash awards for winning medals in international sports competitions,pension to meritorious sportspersons,which has recently been doubled and pension to sportspersons of yesteryears,living now in indigent circumstances, which has been quadrupled.

As for the broadbasing of the sports facilities, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.However,the Government of India has recently launched a national scheme titled Panchaytat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) which provides for creation of basic sports infrastructure in all village and block panchayats of the country in a phased manner over a period of next years.Under this scheme,the State Governments can select the village panchaysts and block panchayats, which require creation of sports facilities on priority,and intimate the same to the Government of India for approval.Apart from one-time seed capital assistance, the Government also provides financial assistance for acquisition of equipment, routine repair and maintenance and holding competitions.

In the instant case,the Government has taken note of the news item referred to in the Question for taking appropriate action.